

REMARKS

Claim 20 has been amended so as to take care of the formal objection raised in the Official Action.

Claim 20 has also been amended so as to sharpen its definition of the invention relative to the applied reference.

Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested, for the rejection of several of the claims as anticipated by LEIGH-MONSTEVENS et al.

The Official Action refers to Figure 5 of LEIGH-MONSTEVENS et al., wherein the fingers 138d terminate in ends 138f at an angle thereto. Therefore, when the member 46 is inserted in member 32, fingers 138d will be deformed radially outwardly and their ends 138f, which in an undeformed condition seem to define a cylindrical envelope, will indeed be inclined radially outwardly.

But this radially outwardly inclined relationship of the arcuate bar portions 138f plays no part in the operation of LEIGH-MONSTEVENS. Instead, in the operation of LEIGH-MONSTEVENS, when the male member 46 is introduced, the fingers 138d are pressed radially outwardly and then snap back substantially to their original position with the end edges 138f of each finger engaging the trailing abutment annular shoulder 114. See the last several lines of column 5 of the text of LEIGH-MONSTEVENS.

In sharp contrast thereto, in the present invention, the radially outwardly deformed finger portions shown at 12 in our drawings, play an entirely different role, namely, a retention role within a vascular member in which the device is inserted. If these portions 12 were arranged as in LEIGH-MONSTEVENS, namely, in a cylindrical array in an undeformed condition of the device 2 of the present invention, then the portions 12 would not perform this function in the fully inserted operative position.

Instead, our finger portions 12 can perform the gripping function for which they are intended, against a radially outward vascular wall, because, in an undeformed condition of the member 2, they are inclined radially outwardly.

Claim 20 has been amended so as to make this plain. There is accordingly no way that LEIGH-MONSTEVENS can be legitimately applied against amended claim 20 and hence the claims that depend therefrom.

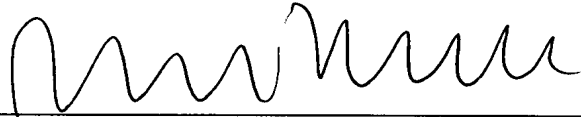
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Patch', written over a horizontal line.

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